

2007 –131

September 15, 2007

TOWN OF ABINGDON

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007 – 8:00 A.M.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR

A work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Saturday, September 15, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Mayor Lois H. Humphreys

Mr. Robert M. Howard, Vice Mayor

Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.

Mrs. Cathy Lowe

Mr. Edward B. Morgan

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk

John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction

Jim Smith, Director of Wastewater Operations/Town

Engineer

Visitors: Steve Buston, Donnie Necessary, Brian Glover, Jason Berry

B. VDOT Presentation on Traffic Study

Donnie Necessary and Brian Glover with VDOT presented a power point presentation to the Council members regarding the Traffic Study they conducted at Exit 17 in the Town of Abingdon. Discussion among the VDOT engineers and Council members targeted problems and potential solutions to increased traffic at Exit 17. The Council requested that VDOT review their data and come back with recommendations and cost projections for potential solutions.

C. Recess for Council Members to Participate in Washington County Fair Parade

D. Reconvene Work Session

E. Lunch

F. Topics for Discussion

1. Multi-Sports Complex

2. Exit 14

- Consideration of Filing a Declaratory Judgment

Action to determine the issue of vested rights.

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On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Town Council directed Greg Kelly, Town Manager, to seek declaratory judgment action on property of Commonwealth Developers with regard to the property at Exit 14.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Morgan Aye

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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### 3. Consideration of Hiring an Assistant Town Attorney

On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Town Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager, to offer employment to Deborah Icenhour as Assistant Town Attorney.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Morgan Aye

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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4. Consideration of Outdoor Community/Music Events

- Establishing a budget

On motion of Dr. Moore, second by Mr. Howard, the
Town Council appropriated \$25,000 for outdoor
community/music events for the remainder of the 2007/2008
budget and the it is to come from reserve for contingency.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Morgan Aye

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

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The motion carried.

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- Consideration of use of alcohol at Town events

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to approve groups requesting use of outdoor Town pavilions to permit alcohol at their events as long as the requesting party complies with all requirements set for in accordance with the ABC laws and the event is not a family featured event.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Morgan Aye

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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After discussion by the Council, by consensus, it was decided to establish a Music Events Committee

with members consisting of Greg Kelly, Cathy Lowe, Greg Jordan, Rick Humphreys, Bill Smith and Matt Smith.

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## 5. Preparations for Major Town Celebrations

- The Council discussed plans for the 230th anniversary celebration of the Town of Abingdon in 2008 and

considered asking the Historical Society, the DAR and SAR to submit ideas for the celebration.

The Council also discussed the possibility of a reenactment being prepared for the event.

- The Council discussed plans for celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Abingdon Fire Department as well as finding a suitable building for the location of the first two (2) fire trucks Abingdon owns.
- The Council discussed the location of the caboose recently given to the Town and asked Greg Kelly,

Town Manager, to contact Light Milling and see if it might be temporarily located there while restoration work is being done.

#### 6. Consideration of Naming the Downtown Park

The Council took no action on this item.

#### 7. Update of Status of Coomes Center Lawsuit

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Greg Kelly provided the Council with a brief update on the status of the Coomes Center litigation matter and informed the Council that resolution to the matter was still some time away.

#### 8. Consideration of Town's commitment to Virginia Main Street Program

On motion of Mr. Morgan, second by Mr. Howard, the Town Council designated a \$22,000 allocation payable to the Main Street program when the Town Manager is satisfied that the program has demonstrated fiscal responsibility and after confirmation that a Town designee has been appointed to the Board of Directors.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Morgan Aye

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Dr. Moore Aye

Mr. Howard Aye

Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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9. Technology Park

- The Council asked that Jason Berry be directed to pursue grant monies to assist in paying for a generator for the Incubator building.
- The Council discussed the need for a Village Center for the Technology Park and asked that the economic development coordinator, once hired, make this a priority project.

10. Consideration of Financial Incentives for Restaurants, Hotels, and Industry locating in the Town of Abingdon.

- The Council briefly discussed the issue of financial incentives.

11. Infrastructure Upgrades

- The Council discussed the Cook Street extension, the Whites Mill Road to Main Street extension, the upgrade of imprinted crosswalks at locations and rail trail extensions and bike trails.

12. Non- Departmental Requests

- The Council discussed the possible requirement of audits and financial statements from agencies with non-departmental requests in order to ensure fiscal responsibility.
- Mr. Morgan informed the Council of the issue with Faith in Action and their need for a building.

The Council discussed holding another Saturday work session to cover remaining agenda items and designed Saturday, November 10, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. as the next work session date.

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With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Clerk